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Humane Information Services, Inc., "(No. 39) – Good News About Humane Slaughter" (1977). *Report to Humanitarians*. 14.

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REPORT TO HUMANITARIANS

Number 39 — March, 1977

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published quarterly by

Humane Information Services
Incorporated
A NON-PROFIT-NATIONAL HUMANE SOCIETY
FOR THE PREVENTION OF ANIMAL SUFFERING

4495 Ninth Avenue North
St. Petersburg, Florida 33713

Dues and Contributions Tax Deductible

As the famous radio broadcaster, Kaltenborn, used to say, "Ah! There's good news tonight."
Good, that is, for humanitarians and meat consumers. And for every other decent human being who wishes to spare animals from suffering.

The humane slaughter bill for which Humane Information Services has been fighting every year since 1973 finally seems to have an excellent chance for passage by the present Congress. We can make sure of this if the humane movement unites behind this excellent bill. For various reasons other humane societies have not really pushed this legislation in the past. This article is designed to examine why that is so, and to show why we should all get behind the bill during the present session of Congress to insure its passage. Many humanitarians are confused about this subject, because it is a field of humane work with which they have no personal experience.

THE GUNTER BILL

Away back in 1973, at the urging of our sister society, the National Association for Humane Legislation (NAHL), Congressman Bill Gunter, of Florida, introduced a bill designed to require the use of humane slaughtering methods in foreign meat packing plants that export meat products to the United States.

Conditions in meat packing plants in some foreign countries were shocking to humanitarians who had not realized what great quantities of meat are imported by the United States. It is estimated that this amounts to the equivalent of at least five million head annually. Thus, a substantial part of the meat consumed by

Passive humanitarianism does little or no good. If you fail to read this article because the subject matter is "too horrible," or merely cluck your tongue at the suffering depicted, or if you say "I'm just too busy," you are betraying the animals you profess to care about.
So, if you are a real humanitarian or animal lover, you will read the suggestions for doing something at the end of this article, and do what is requested.
At the very least, you will send an extra contribution to Humane Information Services for use in its efforts to obtain humane slaughter.

Americans, in the blissful belief that it is from humanely-slaughtered animals, is not affected by present United States humane slaughter laws.

Some of these plants already were using humane equipment for stunning the animals, to make them unconscious before shackling, hoisting, cutting and bleeding out. But others were not. Humane Information Services had been unable to obtain complete information on these conditions, despite diligent inquiries addressed to foreign humane societies and the United States Department of Agriculture. However, there was enough evidence to indicate that conditions in some countries are bad, and that we should make sure that none of the meat we consume is produced under such conditions.

The accompanying pictures are evidence of the callous disregard of animal suffering which exists in some foreign countries.

The Gunter bill received only lukewarm support from the humane movement, and never even got to the point of hearings by the Subcommittee on Livestock and Grains of the House Agriculture Committee, to which it was assigned.

Representative Gunter ran for the Senate in 1974, and was defeated by a

nation of circumstances related to Florida politics. This made it necessary to find a new sponsor for the bill, early in the 94th Congress.

THE BROWN BILL

NAHL was fortunate in obtaining Representative George E. Brown, Jr., of California, a member of the House Agriculture Committee, as sponsor of a new bill. Representative Brown is capable, favorably

known to other legislators, and humane-minded. He assigned responsibility for the bill to a member of his staff, Mrs. Peggy Wheeler, who proved to be intelligent, resourceful and diligent, and a good cooperator. The upshot was that a new bill was developed, much more comprehensive and potentially effective than the Gunter bill, and designed to meet objections to the latter based on the claim by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the State Department that the Gunter bill would require something of foreign plants not equally applicable to domestic plants. The reason for this was that under the present federal humane slaughter law, passed in 1958, only domestic plants selling meat to the federal government are covered, whereas the Gunter bill would have required all foreign plants exporting to the US to comply, regardless of whether or not they sell meat products to US government agencies.

EXTENSION OF COVERAGE

The new Brown bill, H.R. 1464, entirely removes this objection by making all packing plants now under federal inspection, or "equal-to" state inspection, subject to the humane slaughter act of 1958. This means that under the Brown bill practically all commercial meat packing plants in the US would be required to use humane methods as defined in the 1958 law. And foreign plants exporting meat products to the US, which also come under the meat inspection provisions, would be required to observe the same humane slaughtering provisions that apply to US plants.

But this substantial extension of coverage of the 1958 federal act to additional domestic as well as foreign meat packers is not the only thing that the Brown bill would accomplish. Just as or more important are the greatly improved enforcement provisions.

ENFORCEMENT IMPROVED

Under the present act, as previously noted, only meat packing establishments owned by firms which sell meat to federal government agencies, such as the Army and Navy, are affected. Any such packing firm must submit a statement that it is in compliance with the law, which means for all species (cattle, hogs, sheep) in all of its plants. But there is no convenient way for the purchasing agency to check up on that statement. The results of inspections are reported separately for different species. It would require a staff of purchasing agents with a computer to keep track of all these reports and determine, for any firm bidding on a meat contract, whether or not it is in compliance. So far as we have been able to determine, this is not done. The simple statement by the supplier is accepted at face value.

What would people think of crime enforcement that accepted a signed statement from a suspected criminal that he had not violated the law?

As a result, a veterinarian who is very well informed about administration of the federal law states: "We know of no charges of non-compliance having been made in the 18 years the law has been in effect."

Information Services believes that most interstate plants under federal inspection have instituted methods which comply at least technically with the act's requirements. A principal reason for this is that packers have found humane methods to be more efficient, and less given to injuries to personnel, than the old-fashioned inhumane methods which they formerly objected to giving up because of cost considerations. Just as most greyhound

trainers mistakenly believe that the use of live rabbits and cats is necessary to train a racing dog, many packers thought the new methods would put them at a cost disadvantage, until they were required by the law to use them. As soon as some of the plants that wanted to abide by the law tried the humane methods, and found them to be good business, many others fell into line. Probably about 95 percent of plants directly under federal inspection have come into line.

STATE LAWS

Many intrastate plants (doing business only within a given state and therefore not subject to federal regulation) which fall under state-administered meat inspection, however, have not adopted humane methods unless a state humane slaughter law similar to the federal act has been passed by the state legislature.

About half of the states have passed such laws. Vigorous campaigns for state laws in the remainder, conducted by humane societies in the fifties and sixties, have "petered out" in the seventies, except in a few states, including Missouri, where a bill (H.R. 238) is now before the State legislature. Humanitarians seem to have given up their efforts to pass such laws. These will be unnecessary, however, when the Brown bill passes.

The Brown bill would extend the provisions of the federal law to all of the state plants which are inspected either by USDA inspectors, or by state inspection services "equal-to" and affiliated with the USDA service, which means practically all commercial plants.

INSPECTION GREATLY IMPROVED

The USDA personnel now charged with the task of inspecting the slaughtering methods have made a valiant effort to do a good job. But there are too many ways in which these efforts may be thwarted.

A plant may have a captive-bolt pistol on hand, and use it for stunning cattle (See HUMANE SLAUGHTER, page 2, column 1)

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HUMANE SLAUGHTER — FROM PAGE 1 —

when the inspector shows up. In between, however, they may prefer to go back to the old inhumane sledgehammer (not permitted under the 1958 act). Dr. Thomsen has observed such a case.

If the electrical method of stunning is used for hogs or sheep, the slaughtermen may be careful to place the device properly if the inspector is present, but get very careless at other times. Unless the electric current passes through the brain prior to going through the body, it can be as painful as the former method, still used in some plants, of shackling, hoisting and cutting the conscious animal. The worker does not care whether the current first passes through the brain; in either case the animal becomes immobile, equally easy to handle.

Likewise, the carbon dioxide tunnel used for hogs in some plants must be kept properly adjusted or the animals may never fully lose consciousness, or regain it before being hoisted and stuck. Who is to care if no inspector is around?

Under the Brown bill the inspection of slaughtering methods would be done by the USDA meat inspectors assigned to the plant, where they work daily (see photo).

PENALTIES INCREASED

The present federal humane slaughter act has no criminal penalties, and does not identify those who are not in compliance. The reports made by the slaughter inspectors identify only those who are in compliance. The only penalty for non-compliance is possible loss of the privilege of selling to a federal agency. But this is a theoretical matter, since, for reasons that have been explained, there is no feasible way the purchasing agency can check on compliance. Under the Brown bill the packer would be told of any violation immediately, and if the violation did not cease, the inspector would not pass the carcasses for human food. The packer stands to lose big money.

Thus, the Brown bill changes the penalty for violation of the act from a virtual slap on the wrist to a financial loss sufficient, if the violation continues, to close the plant. This is a big improvement.

If the plant hires a new worker to apply the electric tongs, without giving him adequate training and warnings, and the meat inspector discovers him using the device in a way that results in an inhumane death, he could condemn all of the carcasses coming from the line during the time the offending worker was doing the

stunning. Of course, he would be very unlikely to do any such thing. The inspectors are not unreasonable. Probably he would give a stern warning to the plant management, which would take immediate steps to correct the deficiency. Under the present system, it might be a year before the deficiency was discovered and corrected.

MERITS OF THE BROWN BILL

To summarize, the Brown bill would:

(1) Extend coverage of the 1958 federal humane slaughter act to several hundred domestic commercial plants not now covered.

(2) Extend coverage also to foreign plants that export meat to the US.

(3) Entirely change the enforcement of the act, from the present non-enforced provisions applying to meat packers who sell to the federal government, to all plants coming under federal or state USDA-supervised federal meat inspection.

(4) Change inspections from the present hit-or-miss, occasional inspection system to daily inspections by USDA meat inspectors.

(5) Make penalties for violation of the act much more of a deterrent to slipshod or non-compliance.

(6) But, because existing personnel now continuously employed as meat inspectors in all of these plants would be utilized also for the inspection of slaughtering methods, the Brown bill would not appreciably increase the costs of enforcing the act. In short, it would provide something much better than what we now have, without significant additional expense to the government.

No other humane bill now before the Congress, or any state legislature, has more merit.

A NON-CONTROVERSIAL BILL

It would be hard to find any other kind of legislation that is less controversial among humanitarians and humane societies than humane slaughter. Organizations that fight "like cats and dogs" over other matters have been of one mind about eliminating the cruelties of slaughter.

There is no real difference of opinion over what methods of slaughter are humane and what are not.

The basic principle, upon which all agree, is to eliminate the shackling and hoisting of conscious animals before cutting their throats (see photo). In the case of non-ritual slaughter, this is accomplished by using some humane method of stunning the animal. For ritual slaughter, it involves the use of some kind of holding device so the animal is positioned for the shochet's knife without prior shackling and hoisting.

Livestock producers and meat packers also support such legislation. Producers understandably feel that they should not be subject to humane slaughter requirements that their competitors in foreign countries do not have to observe. And packers would be relieved of the necessity for making hundreds of useless reports now required which are compiled and the results published in the *Federal Register*. The principal organizations of both the livestock producers and the meat packers have assured the National Association for Humane Legislation and Humane Information Services that they have no objections to the bill. And consumers, although they have not been active in supporting the bill, could only benefit from its passage. The cost of meat would not be appreciably increased.

What, then, could possibly hold up passage of the bill, which seems to be approved by practically everybody, and which would not hurt anyone?

The answer is: inertia, conflicting priorities, misunderstanding, intransigence, and policies of the House Agriculture Committee.

CONFLICTING PRIORITIES AND INERTIA

Our sister society, the National Association for Humane Legislation, has kept track of the mail received by Congress about the Brown bill. Following publication of NAHL's *Humane Legislation Digest* a year ago, the House Agriculture Committee



Modern ships still use primitive, inhumane methods of loading cattle. Here several LIVE cattle are hoisted over the side of a ship by means of a rope placed around their horns. Many times a horn breaks or the animal becomes loose and falls on the deck or railing of the ship breaking its legs and ribs. Occasionally an animal suffers a broken neck or severe cervical strain from this method. (Photograph from International Society for the Protection of Animals.)

ject as on any other bill being considered. But this was nearly all generated by NAHL and the readers of this *Report to Humanitarians*.

Some other societies have noted introduction of the Brown bill in their newsletters and other publications. But very few have given adequate directions about writing letters to Congress and newspapers about it. The reaction of humane societies generally has been passive and ineffective.

No doubt this stems partly from fears that their tax exemption privileges would be endangered by more explicit urgings. These fears now should have been removed by passage of the 1976 amendments to the Tax Code.

Others have been lethargic about the bill from simple inertia. It was too much trouble to become informed about the bill, or they had too many other things of local importance to include in their publications.

Another reason was a difference in priorities. Many societies were devoting their efforts to seals, whales, eagles, wild burros, wolves and so on, although by any standards related to the amount of suffering involved, the Brown bill would rank at or near the top.

JEWISH OPPOSITION?

Despite diligent search for opponents of the bill, in the hope that if they are found we might persuade them to change their position, we have encountered none directly. But we have been told by persons connected with the Congress that Jewish rabbis, and a very prominent Jewish organization, have quietly let it be known that they do oppose the bill.

How can this be? The bill would not affect ritual slaughter in any way. It does not redefine the word "humane" as applied to slaughter. Since ritual slaughter is specifically exempt in the 1958 federal humane slaughter act, and the Brown bill would only extend the coverage and greatly improve the enforcement of that act, it would not affect ritual slaughter in any way.

Why, then, do some Jewish interests

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Vegetarianism and Humanitarianism

FROM A VEGETARIAN

"Please stop sending *Report to Humanitarians*. I've been a vegetarian for so long now that it seems so senseless to fight for humane slaughter....Why have slaughtering at all? I cannot support a publication that is fighting for different things than I believe in."--Ms. Mary Jane Hadeed, Westport, Connecticut.

REPLY:

We continue to read vegetarian viewpoints, and wish you were open-minded enough to continue reading ours. If you live to be 100 years old, please write us again and let us know which you then think we should have fought for in 1977: humane slaughter or to make everyone a vegetarian. The old "all or nothing" belief is hard to eradicate (see article this issue).

About twelve o'clock one night several years ago Doc was awakened by a telephone call from New York City. The caller had just read an article in our *Report to Humanitarians* about humane slaughter. "Why don't you have the courage to come out against the eating of any meat? Are you a vegetarian?" she demanded.

"That depends upon how you define 'vegetarian,'" Doc replied.

KINDS OF VEGETARIANS

There are many different varieties of vegetarians. Probably less than ten percent of them are "vegans," who will not eat or use any product of animal origin, including meat, poultry, fish, eggs, milk, butter, cheese, leather, furs and wool.

The remainder of the vegetarians are divided into various groups, such as the lacto-ovo-vegetarians, who consume eggs and dairy products but not animal flesh. In so doing, of course, they contribute to the use of discarded laying hens for meat and bull calves for veal. The cows and bulls also eventually wind up at the slaughterhouse and on the tables of meat eaters.

Likewise, vegetarians who rationalize the eating of gelatin because it is only a by-product of meat production, or the use of wool or leather for the same reason, overlook the fact that all of these products contribute to the total value of the live animal. This value is what the farmer takes into account when deciding whether or not to produce the animal. And the shearing of sheep bred to grow more wool than needed for their own protection leads to the death of many thousands from cold weather. Even the use of horses for pleasure riding eventually results in their death and use for food. And simply keeping a dog as a companion results in the production of food which is at least partly of animal origin.

There is no logical reason, therefore, based on the principle of not taking an animal's life, for approving the use of some products of animal origin and not others. Logically, the vegans have it, hands down. But there are reasons, other than this "principle," for becoming a vegetarian.

WHY PEOPLE ARE VEGETARIANS

People are motivated to be vegetarians by various considerations which also influence how they define the term:

(1) Religious or ethical convictions which prohibit taking the life of an animal or eating flesh.

(2) Concern for the millions of undernourished people in the world for whom much more and cheaper food could be made available if vegetable matter were consumed directly rather than indirectly through eating animal products.

(3) The belief that people's health is improved by a vegetarian diet.

(4) Humaneness: a desire to spare animals the physical suffering and mental trauma involved in the production, marketing and slaughter of food animals, and in procuring wool and animal skins for furs.

RELIGIOUS MOTIVATIONS

opposed to any utilitarian use of animals because it eventually results in an animal losing its life, he might not be so concerned with the fourth reason given above: humaneness. In some countries where it is against religious beliefs to kill an animal, starving cattle roam city streets, and a badly-injured animal in great pain may be allowed to lie in the street because no one will kill it to put it out of its misery (see photo).

Those who do not agree entirely with this group, and do not oppose some uses of animals, point out that people are used in many kinds of dangerous occupations. And there are those who point out that people are killed in battle to protect other people. Although humans have some degree of choice in such matters, whereas animals do not, the pressure of law and economic conditions in effect provide the coercion. Most non-vegetarians would not give animals a preferred position over humans.

Humane Information Services has no desire to enter into any argument with those who are motivated to be vegetarians by such religious or semi-religious beliefs. They practice what they preach. We do hope that they will be equally tolerant of those who believe that until the millennium, when all will be vegetarians, we be given support for our efforts to make the production and marketing of food animals more humane.

HELPING THE UNDERNOURISHED

There is no doubt that much more food, including protein, could be made available to undernourished peoples of the world if everyone were a vegetarian. This is a big "if" inevitably followed by a big "but." Would farmers be willing to shift from the production of feed grains, hay and livestock to vegetable crops, fruits and nuts that would be required to turn theory into practice? The transition would have to be over a long period. Meanwhile, for a time at least, food production probably would decline. Fish now are an important source of food in many countries, but would not be used if the world went vegetarian. And livestock graze on land unsuited for production of fruits, nuts and vegetables. Beef cattle are "finished" on grain only in the feedlots. The acreage available for conversion would be mainly that now devoted to corn, sorghum and hay, probably not as large a part of the total as vegetarians think.

The world's population, which in past centuries has been limited mainly by the pressure of population on the available food supply, would respond to any eventual increase in food production, leaving the per capita availability of food much less changed than vegetarians believe. The education and propaganda required to bring about the necessary shifts in consumption and production of food, if diverted instead to holding down the human population through family planning and birth control, might do far more to improve the nutritional condition of the population.

These are merely limitations on the quantitative increase in food supplies that might result from a shift to vegetarianism.

IMPROVEMENT OF HEALTH

The effects of a vegetarian diet on the health of those who follow it also are a matter of much difference of opinion. For every nutrition "expert" the vegetarians may get to testify that a meat diet is dangerous to health, their opponents can find two who say the opposite.

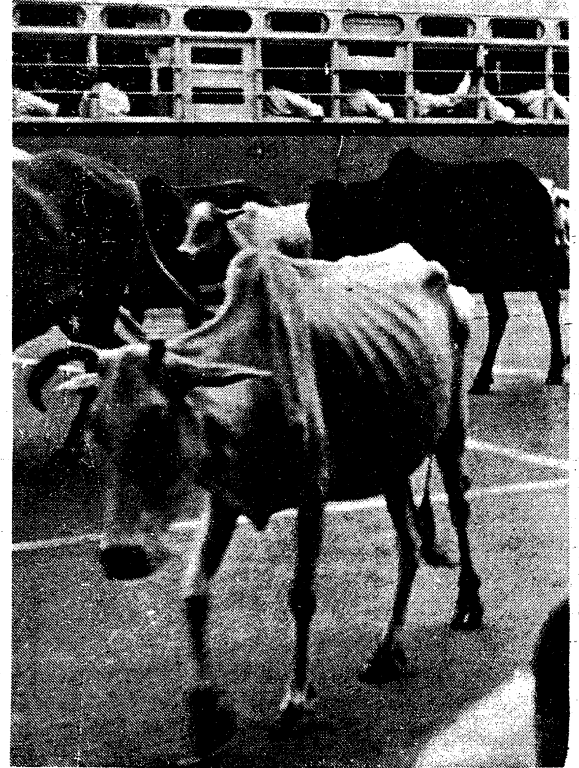
Vegetarians claim that man is not naturally either a "carnivore" (meat eater) or "omnivore" (eating both animal and plant food). We are, they say, born to be vegetarian animals. Our teeth and jaws are not designed for eating flesh. We perspire through our skin, whereas carnivores do so through their tongues. The carnivores hunt for food at night, whereas vegetarian animals do so in daylight.

But vegetarians carefully avoid applying to humans the name for the third cate-

we are unlike "carnivores." Most herbivores have multiple chambers for food digestion, chew cuds, or otherwise differ markedly from humans. True, anthropoid apes live on nuts, fruits, green shoots, edible leaves and seeds, but this is far from being the kind of diet envisioned by the vegetarians.

These anatomical differences seem to be a dubious reason for expecting man to avoid meat eating. His use of fire and condiments for cooking meat, as well as hard-to-digest or tasteless vegetable matter, makes up for his lack of physical features designed to aid the eating of raw meat or whole animals.

Yet the vegetarians have excellent reasons for believing their diet to be more healthful than that of meat eaters. Meat



Unwillingness to kill animals, due to religious scruples, may result in much unintended suffering, as by these "sacred cows" in the street of a city in India. (Photograph from *St. Petersburg Times*.)

is high in saturated fats and cholesterol, believed to be causes of heart disease. Apparently people who eat a diet high in animal fats have a higher incidence of coronary heart disease than those who do not.

Vegetarians also make a case for possible cancer-causing properties of meat. Studies have shown a strong correlation between the incidence of colon cancer and meat consumption.

Vegetarians also claim that meat has a far greater amount of harmful bacteria than vegetarian foods. Salmonella infection is especially likely to result from bacterial contamination of meat. According to Dr. James Goddard, writing on "Nutrition Today," meat chosen at random in retail markets has shown a high incidence of contamination. Others say that proper cooking kills the bacteria.

It is pointed out, also, that a carnivorous diet creates more waste for the kidneys to contend with, and that comparative urine analyses show that meat eaters require of their kidneys three times the amount of work in the elimination of nitrogenous wastes than is demanded of the kidneys of flesh abstainers. There is a high incidence of kidney disease.

And, finally, the fatty tissues of meat are said to act as biological magnifiers, adding to the chemical content of the human body derived from pesticides, additives, preservatives and antibiotics.

One of the best, if somewhat biased, presentations we have seen of these health considerations arising from the eating of meat is to be found in *Facts of Vegetarianism*, a tabloid publication of the North American Vegetarian Society, 501 Old Harding Highway, Malaga, New Jersey 08328, which sells for ten cents per copy. Interested persons may wish to send for it.

Another publication which will be found useful by those interested in vegetarianism is *Eating For Life, A Book About Vegetarianism*.

VEGETARIANISM — FROM PAGE 3 —

by The Theosophical Publishing House, Wheaton, Illinois.

DIET PROBLEMS OF VEGETARIANS

What we have failed to find, in most discussions of the health aspects of vegetarianism, is adequate warning and explanation of the need for various specific nutritional elements which may be lacking in a vegetarian diet, and which must be provided if the diet is not to prove harmful. For such information the vegetarian would be well-advised not to depend on statements by the sales people of the local health food stores, who may be former plumbers or used-car salesmen turned physiologists and nutritionists by reading the advertising and promotional literature of those catering to food faddists.

For this purpose we have found very useful the more objective and scholarly articles contained in the magazine, *Prevention* (Rodale Press, Emmaus, Pennsylvania 18049). Particularly helpful will be found the issue of September, 1971 (Vol. 23, No. 9), especially the article "How to be a Healthy Vegetarian" (page 154). We recommend that any vegetarian or would-be vegetarian get this issue from the nearest library and read the article carefully. It may not be the nutritionists' last word on the subject, but it does contain a great deal of valuable information, particularly on the role of amino acids in nutrition and how to insure that a balanced supply of these elements, found so abundantly in animal products, will be included in a vegetarian diet. (An article entitled "Vegetarians Can Get Complete Protein Nourishment," in the March, 1973, issue of *Prevention*, contains similar information but is not as comprehensive as the first article referred to. We also recommend that readers of these articles obtain from the library and read the reference works cited. Health is too important to trifle with.)

It may surprise you to learn that corn has a higher amino acid content, per gram of nitrogen, than wheat, and that sweet potatoes have a relatively high content of these elements.

Eggs provide a biologically complete protein. By knowing the distribution of the different amino acids in eggs, and planning the use of other foods to collectively give you approximately the same balance, you are more likely to obtain an adequate supply of each amino acid. For example, corn and sweet potatoes, rarely served together because both are considered to be starchy foods, collectively provide a good amino acid balance. Such information contained in the article cited is especially helpful to people who eat in restaurants, where sunflower seeds, soybeans, etc., are not on the menu.

Vegetarian diets also may be deficient in vitamins, particularly B₁₂. Vegetarians who eat eggs and milk in adequate amounts are not quite so vulnerable regarding vitamin B₁₂ as are vegans who avoid all animal products.

Pernicious anemia in vegetarians is said to frequently escape diagnosis. A vegetarian diet rich in green vegetables provides lots of folic acid, which keeps the blood pressure normal and masks the evidence of irreparable nerve damage that can occur before a vitamin B₁₂ deficiency is discovered. Yeast, wheat germ and soybeans are said to be about the only foods from which a vegan can get some traces of B₁₂. To be nutritionally safe, it would certainly be wise for everyone on a vegan diet to take a daily B₁₂ supplement, and avoid the possibility of neurological disease which may not show its symptoms for five years or more.

In a study of the effects of veganism conducted in collaboration with the Department of Nutrition, Queen Elizabeth College, London, scientists found that nine of the 26 vegans had serum B₁₂ levels that were low, whereas only one control had a serum B₁₂ deficiency. Other than this deficiency, there was no significant difference in the clinical status of the vegans and the meat eaters except that the vegans were lighter in weight.

An excellent article on the lack of B₁₂ in vegetarian diets and what may be done

page 18 of Issue 18 (March-April, 1977) of *Vegetarian Times*, which also contains an article showing the content of different vitamins in commonly available vegetarian foods. This issue is well worth any vegetarian's dollar (Post Office Box A3104, Chicago, Illinois 60690).

The foregoing comments are not offered as a complete guide to healthful vegetarian eating, but merely to indicate that the claims for superiority of a vegetarian over a meat diet must be examined with caution by anyone contemplating a switch to vegetarianism, and that our vegetarian friends, particularly vegans, would be well-advised to carefully review their diets, especially with reference to their amino acid and vitamin B₁₂ content.

ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS: HUMANENESS

Vegetarianism is more than an individual viewpoint on matters relating to food. Those who recommend it do not do so on a take-it-or-leave-it basis. It is a cult. Its followers publish numerous papers and magazines, the purpose of which is only partly to circulate information among individual vegetarians on matters of diet such as were discussed in the preceding section. The purpose of vegetarian societies and publications is not merely to benefit the members or readers, as in the case of an athletic club or ordinary health magazine. A principal purpose is to proselytize the public into joining the cult. A vegetarian newspaper refers to vegetarianism as "a humanitarian crusade of unparalleled urgency and importance to all of humanity." A true-blue vegetarian will try to convert anyone he or she comes in contact with, as does a real humanitarian.

Of the four motivational bases for vegetarianism with which we opened this discussion, all have some element of "do-goodism." The religionistic vegetarian tries to convert, not for his own benefit, but to save the soul of his candidate. The vegetarian concerned over world food supplies wants to help the undernourished, not himself. The vegetarian for health reasons cares more for his own health, but also has at least some evangelistic concern for that of the person he so earnestly tries to convince of the health benefits of a vegetarian diet.

Probably in all of these cases there is a certain element, found in all "do-gooders" including humanitarians, of ego fulfillment: they subconsciously want to appear "holier than thou," or to defend themselves against implications that they are peculiar or "nutty." They may be following the precept that the best defense is an offense. That, as we have acknowledged, applies to humanitarians as well as vegetarians. It helps to orient ourselves in a society generally unappreciative of our efforts, if we recognize our motives, including those that may not be too flattering.

It appears to us, as humanitarians, that the most obvious and defensible reason for proselytism by vegetarians is to be found in the fourth motivation, "humaneness." The essential condition of humaneness is regard for the feelings of another sentient being, including animals. It is the wish to avoid imposing physical or psychological suffering on either people or animals.

THE ONLY WAY VEGETARIANISM CAN REDUCE ANIMAL SUFFERING

The only way that vegetarianism can contribute to a reduction in the amount of suffering by animals is by reducing the demand for animal products. It is not at all the saving of some specific animals' lives. If, for example, you should win over to vegetarianism a group of people who during a year formerly consumed the equivalent of five animals, you have not actually saved five animals from either death or suffering. Somebody else will eat the animals and consume their by-products, persuaded to do so by lower demand for and prices of these products. Nobody says to the farmer who produced the five animals formerly consumed by these vegetarians: "Now, you must cut your production by five animals." He would have laughed at such a suggestion, for he knows

raises. Middlemen (meat packers, jobbers, retail stores and restaurants) also know that there will be somebody to buy the meat and by-products, at a price.

So, even if a score of people stop eating animal products, they would not be saving a single animal from being produced and slaughtered. Only if the number of people shifting to vegetarianism is sufficiently great to reduce the overall demand for and prices of meat and by-products, and hence to influence the price prospects which guide the farmer in planning production, will any animals be saved from suffering or being killed. There is no other way in which the reduction in meat eating and by-product usage can be translated into action by producers.

A good analogy is the New York subway. If 20 daily riders get mad at the subway and quit riding it, not a single car would be retired from service, not a single subway employee fired. The only result would be a slight reduction in the subway's receipts which would be so small in relation to the system's annual receipts and expenses as to go unnoticed by the subway's managers.

Exactly the same principle applies to furs. People or organizations opposed to trapping think that every person persuaded not to buy a fur coat saves the lives of the number of animals whose skins would be required to make that coat. Alas, such is not the case. Only when the number of people persuaded to forego fur garments runs into thousands will the overall demand for and prices of fur skins be sufficiently affected to reduce the number of animals trapped.

IS VEGETARIANISM NOW EFFECTIVE IN PROMOTING HUMANENESS?

After many decades of promotion of vegetarianism, has the number of people converted to the faith become sufficient to materially affect the demand for and prices of animal products, and hence the production of animals for food and other products?

According to Nathaniel Altman, in his book previously cited, "It is estimated that the total number of vegetarians in the United States lies between 2.5 and 3 million people." But undoubtedly the number has grown substantially since 1968. Mr. H. J. Dinshah, president of the North American Vegetarian Society, at the Vegetarian Congress hosted by that organization in Orono, Maine, in the summer of 1975, gave an estimate of ten million following a vegetarian diet. That is about four percent of the population, or one in every 25 persons. If they were not vegetarians, this number of people would be expected to consume about the same proportion of total meat consumption. This is sufficient to have a mildly significant impact on the demand for and prices of meat animals, and hence on their production. But obviously, it is not enough to have any decisive effect on these conditions. It is much less, for example, than the impact of changes in meat prices brought about by other factors such as weather, feed supplies and economic conditions affecting consumer incomes.

The same conclusion would apply to trapping. After all the efforts to persuade people to stop using furs, prices of fur skins are at historically high levels. Many other factors, such as styles (e.g., coonskin coats for men), fluctuations in consumer incomes, and the destruction of wildlife habitats by the encroachment of civilization, certainly have been far more important in affecting the use of furbearers.

Does this mean that vegetarianism has no substantial potential effect on the number of animals used for food and clothing? By no means. It could have a very material effect. But to achieve it, the whole complexion of the vegetarian movement would have to be changed.

VOLUME OF CONVERTS NEEDED

Vegetarianism is fine as a response to religious scruples, or for salving the individual's conscience, or as a means of improving the health of the participant. The vegan derives much moral satisfaction by abstaining. The vegetarian for health

USE OF LIVE RABBITS IN GREYHOUND TRAINING

Greyhound racing is very popular in Florida. It provides a "respectable" way to gamble, and the excitement which goes along with any kind of gambling and racing. A large number of addicts living in Florida create good business for the tracks. During the tourist season the dog tracks offer an important attraction to supplement the beaches, Disney World, Sea World, Busch Gardens, nightlife, and the host of sleazy tourist traps which abound on every highway frequented by visitors from the North.

This gives the tracks an impregnable position of favor with the hotels, motels, restaurants, chambers of commerce, advertising media, and other interests affected by the tourist trade. And the State itself derives millions of dollars annually from admission taxes and its share of the take from pari-mutuel wagering.

Our members who write to suggest that we "do something" to stop greyhound racing in Florida simply do not appreciate the tremendous influence of the business interests supporting the tracks, plus the many thousands of voters who enjoy participation in this form of entertainment. Among other considerations, the tracks are said to have one of the most efficient lobbying organizations in the State. There is no more chance of eliminating this political behemoth than of closing all the banks. We do not intend to waste our scarce resources by jousting with such formidable opposition, no matter how popular this might make us with some humanitarians who seem to enjoy the fight more than the results.

Actually, as we objectively showed in our *Report to Humanitarians No. 21*, greyhound racing itself is one of the least objectionable kinds of exploitation of animals which can be found. Horse racing is worse. There are far greater sources of animal suffering to occupy our attention for years to come. In states where the tracks have not become established, we have tried to help their opponents in any way possible, and we receive quite a few inquiries from the opponents of racing in those states.

The principal objections to greyhound racing center on the destruction of the countless number of dogs found unsuited to racing, and the training of young racing dogs by the use of live rabbits and cats to instill in them the desire to chase the fake rabbit used as a lure during the actual racing.

The kennel owners stoutly claim that the discarded dogs are destroyed by veterinarians with injections of sodium pentobarbital, as in shelters operated by the best humane societies. We have suspected that less humane procedures are used in some cases, including injections of succinylcholine chloride. But it is exceedingly difficult to obtain concrete evidence of this, and hearsay evidence consisting of rumors circulated by disgruntled former employees, etc., is not very useful.

The use of live "bait" in the training of young dogs is another matter. The trainers and kennel owners do not deny that they engage in these practices, which are followed in all states where training is conducted. They claim there is no other way to instill in the dogs the needed zest for the chase.

The use of live bait for training dogs used in actual racing, as a means of whetting their "blood lust" and stimulating them to run harder during the race, is prohibited by rule of the State racing commission, as in some other states. But these rules do not apply to training tracks or kennels where the young dogs are schooled.

Humane Information Services has some members in Australia who have been very

helpful to us in various ways, as in connection with slaughtering methods used in that country. They have furnished us with copies of the laws and other information relating to the training of greyhounds in Australia, where the tracks are very popular and the dogs appear to run just as eagerly as here. Training is conducted without the use of live rabbits and cats, except in a small state in southern Australia where the industry is not important.

There are some dog trainers in this country who say that the use of live bait is unnecessary. A device marketed under the trade name, "Jack-A-Lure," is claimed to do as good a job as the use of live bait.

In 1973, when a state attorney in Ocala prosecuted a local trainer for using live rabbits in the training of his dogs, Humane Information Services furnished a considerable amount of information about the above for his possible use in the case. However, the trainer was prosecuted for maintaining a "public nuisance," because the prosecutor thought that offered a better chance of conviction than would a case based on violation of the anti-cruelty laws. The court found the trainer guilty, but the decision was later reversed by the appeals court, on the grounds that a rabbit is a rodent, not an "animal." This was despite an opinion to the contrary by the attorney general, and a very unambiguous definition of the word "animal" in the Florida statutes.

We have also furnished information along these lines to the Florida attorney general, who issued the opinion favorable to our position. But this cannot be used to arrest or prosecute violators.

The latest developments in this effort to stop the use of live bait in training young greyhounds are prosecution of a trainer in a lower court in Pinellas County, Florida, and introduction of another bill in the Florida legislature to ban such training.

THE COURT CASE

The court action followed publication in the *St. Petersburg Evening Independent* of an account of a reporter's visit to a training kennel in Pinellas County. A former cruelty investigator for the SPCA of St. Petersburg, Marc S. Paulhus, lodged a complaint based on this report, with assistant state attorney George Tragos. This filing was predicated, not upon a public nuisance violation, but violation of the Florida anti-cruelty statutes. The charge was a misdemeanor.

Finally, the case came up for trial on February 14, 1977, in Judge Burton Easton's court in Clearwater. Dr. Thomsen was there, as were representatives of the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) and other organizations.

None of the evidence accumulated by Hu-

mane Information Services about conditions in Australia, the Jack-A-Lure, etc., could be used, because it constituted "hearsay." The courts consider such secondhand information beneath their notice, even though we had copies of the actual Australian law. Anyway, according to the assistant state attorney, the court would not consider what was done in some other jurisdiction, only what the Florida law states and what the trainer was personally observed to have done in contravention of the law.

The only testimony that the court would admit, the state attorney said, was by a professional animal behaviorist regarding whether or not the use of live bait is necessary in training dogs. Dr. Michael W. Fox, a staff member of the HSUS, has professional standing, has conducted experiments dealing with what motivates wolves and other predators to chase other animals, and has authored books which make him acceptable as an expert witness. He was present to testify.

The defendant was not present when the judge called the case. His lawyer presented a letter from the defendant's physician saying that standing trial at that time might endanger his health (which brings back memories of the Patti Hearst trial!). The judge, to the surprise of everyone except the lawyer for the defendant, accepted this excuse without giving the assistant state attorney an opportunity to question the physician about the nature and seriousness of the defendant's illness. So the case was continued to a future date, and we are not at all sanguine about the eventual result. All of the considerable travel and expense of the prospective witnesses and observers went for naught, although Dr. Fox did have an opportunity to make a deposition under oath.

Thus goeth the transgressor. We have long thought that our system of justice is stacked in favor of the criminal and against the victims of crime, particularly animals.

Cruelty investigators who have been rebuffed time and again in the courts know what we mean. In writing bills or laws, every effort should be made to avoid possible ambiguities which permit defendants to go scot-free, or with a slap on the wrist, when there really is no doubt about their guilt.

LEGISLATION AGAIN ATTEMPTED

Another attempt is being made in the current Florida legislature to pass a bill banning the use of live animals in the training of greyhounds. Marc S. Paulhus, representing several individual humanitarians and humane organizations, is conducting a lobbying campaign with legislators who are members of the committees to which the bill has been assigned. The National Association for Humane Legislation, our sister society, has written personal letters to each member of the committees. However, we are not at all hopeful, because of the strong position of the greyhound industry with the legislature and the fact that the House committee, after a hearing, referred the bill back to a subcommittee "for further study," and in the Senate the bill has been referred to two committees. Both of these actions ordinarily are signs that the bill will be shelved.

(See GREYHOUND, page 6, column 3)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR . . .

"The Thurston County Humane Society is presently in the process of terminating contracts with local municipalities and will give up its shelter to the City of Olympia. The (City or County) government will then form a new agency (for) animal control. Your publication will be used to assist municipalities to formulate a new unified animal control ordinance."--Herrick Higson, Manager, Animal Shelter, Thurston County Humane Society, Olympia, Washington.

REPLY:

We are pleased that you and others who have written to us have found our publications useful in drawing up new pet animal control ordinances. Most of the latter are very much in need of revision, which should not be a halfway job, but incorporate new approaches designed to deal with humane control problems.

Miss Hazel A. Watts, of Londonderry, New Hampshire, is one of the animals' (and our) best friends. She is an indelible and

had done as much as she has to promote the Brown humane slaughter bill, it would have passed long since.

Now Hazel writes us giving her views on the claim that God gave humans dominion over all the animals, to be used for man's benefit: "The animals you say were sent for man's free use and nutriment. Why, then, came they ages before man did? To spend long centuries on earth, awaiting their destroyers' birth? Sent for man's use? Where and when there was no man to receive it."

"As members of your society for some years, we wish to express our appreciation for the extraordinary work you do in behalf of suffering animals. We are familiar with and have contributed to dozens of humane societies and activities in many states. There is not a single one which can compare with the unique and all-encompassing scope of your efforts.

"We recently lost three of our beloved pets, two of which were unwanted pitiful strays when they joined our family. Please accept the enclosed check for \$50 in loving memory of Leo, Prince

VEGETARIANISM—FROM PAGE 4

balanced in proteins, amino acids and vitamins, benefits importantly. The vegetarian movement, by proselytizing people into joining the cult, helps those people. But they do not necessarily in an important way contribute to the avoidance of animal suffering.

This fourth motivation behind vegetarianism calls for adopting and advocating a vegetarian credo which is designed to contribute to the maximum extent possible to a reduction in the demand for meat and animal by-products. This can be done only if the practice of vegetarianism is made as easy and attractive as possible, from the standpoint of the consumer.

To accomplish this, in turn, calls for:

(1) Not insisting that the only real vegetarian is the vegan. The intransigence of the vegan is one of the biggest stumbling blocks to making vegetarianism attractive. There should be no stigma attached to being a lacto-ovo-vegetarian, or any other kind of a vegetarian. The present tendency to make the term "ethical vegetarian" synonymous with the term "vegan" is a slur on those who are attracted to become vegetarians by ethical considerations, but who do not consider it necessary or desirable to emulate the vegan's strict code.

(2) Making the reasons why people should become vegetarians more palatable to people who are not greatly concerned over any of the reasons other than health. More people are selfish than are humanitarians. Their selfish instincts should be the object of propaganda even more than their noble ones.

(3) Many people are not good, inventive cooks with plenty of time to read vegetarian cookbooks and pamphlets or browse around health food stores. They may have kids or husbands who are turned off by sesame and sunflower seeds, and for whom, perhaps, any kind of nuts cause gas pains! They have been raised in the belief that milk products are excellent sources of necessary ingredients including protein and calcium. And so on, over a broad spectrum of family habits, nutritional dogma, and personal tastes. We have been invited to some vegetarian meals that left us hungry and with taste buds unsatisfied. There is great natural resistance to veganism. But if people were approached with the idea that meat is high priced, potentially conducive of certain diseases, and can be easily replaced, at least in large part, by lower-priced, more healthful and still palatable foods, large numbers could be persuaded to turn toward vegetarianism.

The most attractive presentations of the merits of avoiding meat eating that we have encountered have not been in vegetarian literature, but in articles by scientists interested in nutrition. An example is an article which appeared in the *St. Petersburg (Florida) Times* quoting Dr. Robert Levy, director of the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute. Levy suggested that Americans alter their diets to increase consumption of fruits, vegetables, whole grain, poultry and fish, decrease consumption of foods high in fat, partially substitute polyunsaturated fat for saturated fat, substitute non-fat milk for whole milk, and decrease consumption of butterfat, eggs and other cholesterol sources, high sugar content foods, and of salt.

"Were this done by all Americans," he said, "deaths from heart disease, which amounted to one million in 1967, could be reduced 25 percent; cancer, of which there were 600,000 cases and 320,000 deaths in 1968, could be reduced 20 percent; diabetes, which afflicts 3.9 million persons, could be avoided or improved in 50 percent of the cases; and infant mortality, which amounted to 79,000 deaths in 1967, could be cut in half."

Studies show that it is possible to induce hardening of the arteries "with diets similar to those presently consumed by humans," he said. "Subsequent feeding of a low fat and/or low cholesterol diet not only prevents further progression but also effects regression of the arterial disease."

The foregoing statement may be rejected

would appeal to far more people concerned with their diets, with the net result of a much greater effect upon meat consumption.

(4) Placing major emphasis on the avoidance of foods and articles of clothing which involve the greatest amount of suffering by the animals from which they come. Nearly all vegetarian publications and societies, for example, do not differentiate between meat and fish as foods to be avoided. Vegetarians, says Mr. Altman, "do object strongly when people who eat fish label themselves vegetarians. An alternative term would be 'fishatarians.'"

Fish have much less highly-developed central nervous systems than mammals, and when caught they have no comprehension of what is going on, and their suffering is quickly over. Before being caught, fish live a normal life in their own habitat, unlike food animals. We are absolutely opposed to some aspects of catching fish, such as sport fishing where the fish are "played" on the line merely for the thrill. Yet, at worst, fish do not suffer in the same degree as meat animals. Retention of fish in the diet offers an attractive alternative to meat, from the standpoint of cost, taste, nutrition and humaneness. The intransigent vegetarian proselytizer who insists that fish be completely abandoned is not helping to attract potential converts. The same is true of dairy products, which result in much less suffering than meat products (this does not apply to poultry products).

Likewise, both vegans and humanitarians oppose the use of farm-raised mink skins for furs, although the amount of suffering involved in their production is far less than for wild furbearers which are trapped. It is all well and good to retort that fake furs do not involve any suffering. But there are many women who would not be seen in public wearing a fake fur garment which can hardly be distinguished from thousands like it sold in cheap discount stores, but who might be persuaded to purchase a garment made from farm-raised rather than trapped mink.

What policy is best from the standpoint of a vegetarian motivated by no-kill religious principles? Why, of course, to be a vegan. But for the humanitarian concerned solely or mainly with the reduction of animal suffering, a much more flexible type of vegetarianism may be best. This type might be called, for lack of a better term, "practical vegetarians." Vegans will not like us for saying so, but that is what we are.

VEGETARIANS' ATTITUDES TOWARD REGULATION OF ANIMAL ABUSES

The significance of the foregoing conditions is well illustrated by the attitude of vegetarians toward the efforts of humanitarians to reduce the suffering of food and fur animals by regulating their production, marketing and slaughter. Vegetarians insist that all production of animal products be stopped, not regulated to reduce the amount of suffering involved. In taking this attitude, they are adopting a policy identical with that of the antivivisection societies which oppose humanitarians' efforts to regulate the use of animals in laboratories. For both groups, it is "all or nothing."

To oppose or fail to participate in efforts to reduce the suffering of animals, merely because one disapproves of the use of these animals, is analogous to refusing help to a dog that has been badly beaten because we do not "accept" the beating of dogs.

Absolutism did not work for temperance groups that tried unsuccessfully to abolish completely the sale of alcoholic beverages. More alcohol is consumed now per capita than before our flirtation with the Volstead Act. If at the time the latter was passed the temperance groups had followed a less-rigid approach of regulation, there is little doubt that we would not have gone back to the kind of alcoholic abuse which is so prevalent today.

Nor has the extremist position of the antivivisectionists resulted in any reduction in the number of animals used in laboratories. On the contrary, the number has increased rapidly over the decades in which the antivivisectionists have been

satisfaction for the animals. If the large number of dyed-in-the-wool antivivisectionists would join that part of the humane movement that has been working for effective regulation of the use of laboratory animals, much more could be accomplished. On the other hand, it might be said that even more would have been accomplished if those who favor regulation of laboratories would have joined the antivivisectionists. We disagree. Nothing would have been accomplished, whereas something, no matter how inadequate, has been achieved by the regulation advocates, whose programs for improvement have been under way for a much shorter period of time.

The same applies to vegetarians. They, like the antivivisectionists, view efforts to promote more humane ways of producing and marketing food animals as akin to proposals to provide more humane treatment of slaves before emancipation. But the people of this country are not about to fight a civil war to free the animals.

In relatively few instances have vegetarians joined in efforts of humane societies, such as Humane Information Services, to pass the excellent humane slaughter bill sponsored by Congressman Brown, of California, in the last and in the present Congress (see article in this issue). Yet, with their active help we would have a much better chance of gaining passage.

Some individual vegetarians have helped by writing letters to Congress and the newspapers. But the general attitude of the vegetarian movement seems to be exemplified by the following statement taken from *Facts of Vegetarianism*, published by the North American Vegetarian Society:

"To accept all this (cruel production and marketing conditions) and only oppose the callous brutality of the last few seconds of the animal's life, is to debase and corrupt the very word 'humane'!...Ethical vegetarians oppose not only the killing but the whole assortment of cruelties..."

The implications of this and many other statements found in the vegetarian press are that humanitarians working for humane slaughter do accept all the other cruelties associated with the production and marketing of food animals. Nothing could be farther from the truth. Humanitarians want to eliminate all of these cruelties, just as much as do vegetarians. But this, in our opinion, can be done only on a step-by-step basis, and the logical first step is to deal with the slaughtering process, which involves the most obvious and most easily eliminated cruelties.

We invite vegetarians to join humanitarians in doing something practical to eliminate as much of this suffering as possible. It would help, also, if you would write to the editors of any vegetarian publications to which you subscribe, suggesting that they send to us for a copy of this article and reproduce it or comment on it in their next issue.

If anything we have said in this article is offensive to vegetarians, it was not so intended. We have only the most sincere liking and best wishes for our brothers and sisters in the vegetarian movement and hope it is reciprocated. We have much the same goals, only differences about how best to reach them. As George S. Arundale once said: *"Together, differently."*

GREYHOUND—FROM PAGE 5

Other bills to be considered by the Florida legislature in the session beginning April 5 are one to require sterilization of dogs and cats adopted out from humane society shelters and public pounds, and another to make violation of the anti-cruelty laws a felony rather than a misdemeanor. Both of these bills, we understand, are opposed by some local societies, the former because it would temporarily require more impounded animals to be destroyed, and the latter because conviction for a felony rather than a misdemeanor might be more difficult to obtain. After considering all sides of these questions, Humane Information Services and the National Association for Humane Legislation support both of these bills, as well as the one banning the use of live rabbits

HUMANE SLAUGHTER — FROM PAGE 2 —

oppose the Brown bill? The one and only reason we have been able to dig up is that some rabbis who supervise ritual slaughter think that the bill might be a case of the camel getting its nose under the tent! Someone might later undertake to sponsor another bill regulating ritual slaughter. Better, they may think, to leave everything as is, not to stir up the waters.

If that reason for opposing legislation were to be accepted in connection with other problems, there would be practically no legislation of any kind passed!

Humane Information Services hopes that the Jewish community will not permit a few rabbis with special interests in the slaughtering process to give the impression that Jews are selfish and intolerant of the wishes and rights of non-Jews to have the animals whose flesh they eat slaughtered in a humane way. Surely it must be apparent that such opposition to a gentile-originated law which does not affect Jews would be exactly the same in principle as gentile opposition to some Jewish acts which do not affect them.

The ritual slaughter question also seems to be the basis for opposition to the bill from a few humanitarians who follow the principle of "all or nothing." As we said previously, we have been unable to find any such individuals with the courage to come right out in the open and say what they think. But we have been told by others that some humanitarians, particularly in the New York City area, where feelings sometimes run high against present practices of positioning the animal for the ritual cut, are giving the "silent treatment" to the Brown bill.

Obviously, both the Jews and these few gentile humanitarians cannot both be right in opposing the bill. Actually, neither is right. It is all a matter of mutual suspicion, intransigence and misunderstanding.

There is no practical political possibility at this time of passing legislation that would remove the Case-Javits provisions of the federal humane slaughter law.

These eliminate any jurisdiction of the law over any phase of ritual slaughter including pre-slaughter handling. A few humanitarians would combine an attempt to repeal these exemptions with the present provisions of the Brown bill, and demand passage of the whole package or nothing. They are either completely unrealistic or care more about "upholding a principle," whatever that might mean, than helping to eliminate suffering by millions of animals.

If at some future time the Orthodox Jewish community should accept as practical the method of positioning animals for ritual slaughter that has been developed at the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station under the auspices of the Council for Livestock Protection, Inc., and if they then supported making these new methods a requirement for ritual slaughter under the federal law, then the provisions of the Brown bill would greatly expedite general adoption of these improved methods of positioning the animals for ritual slaughter. It would eliminate the need, at that time, of going through the arduous task of obtaining state legislation implementing the change, in states where there are many kosher slaughtering plants which do not come under the present law. Surely humanitarians can see the great importance of the Brown bill becoming a law if such circumstances should arise in the future.

If such an eventuality is what some Jewish groups have in mind when they refer to the camel getting his nose under the tent, they should be able to see from the foregoing that there are no grounds for their fears. The ritual exemptions in the act will not be removed unless and until the rabbinical slaughtering authorities agree to the practicality and desirability of the new positioning devices. But if and when they do so agree, and wish to make the shift, the kosher meat packers may not accede to their wish for reasons of cost of the new equipment or imagined inconvenience. In that case, the rabbis, wishing to avoid public accusations of indifference to animal suffering, might well be glad of a federal law which would give them support in pressuring the kosher plant to use the new approved equipment.

So, there appears to be no reasonable basis for the fears and objections of either the Jewish group or the very small group of humanitarians who may not support the Brown bill. Humane Information Services will be glad to correspond with any responsible organizations or individuals about this phase of the bill, in an effort to remove this possible source of open or clandestine opposition to the Brown bill.

CONGRESS TAKES ITS TIME

Our correspondence with members indicates that few humanitarians understand the intricacies of the legislative process, either in Congress or the state legislatures.

They see a bill which looks completely justifiable and perfectly logical to them, and can see no reason why it should not sail through the legislative mill in a few weeks or months. If it doesn't, they suspect skulduggery of some kind.

They do not understand that the first law of a politician must be to get elected and reelected. So, he must do everything he can to make his constituents think he is actively and effectively representing their interests. One way of doing this is to introduce bills which a few of his constituents want. This costs him nothing personally, and he can send copies of the bills to those who write to him about the matter

involved, as evidence that he is "doing something." Thousands of bills are introduced in each session without the slightest prospect of passage. They are referred to some committee, and by it to a subcommittee, where, in the office of its chairman, it rests in peace until the session is over, when it goes into the wastebasket.

The committee or subcommittee chairman may represent a district where almost nobody is particularly interested in the objective of the bill. In fact, a majority of the chairman's constituents may be against it. And when a Congressman has been around long enough to become chairman of a committee, he probably has become so well known in his own district, and has done small favors for so many people, that nobody seriously challenges him at election time. He can do pretty much as he pleases in Congress, so long as he maintains a stance on major issues that is in line with his constituents' thinking. One of the things he has to keep in mind, however, is the necessity for having a sufficient campaign fund every election year to pay the expenses of TV blurbs, newspaper advertising and roadside signs which continue to keep his name and picture before the public. Thus, it is perfectly natural and reasonable for him to listen respectfully to what his campaign contributors say.

Under these circumstances it is a wonder that so much legislation which is not of interest to a chairman's constituents or campaign contributors does get passed. Actually, Congress has many more conscientious legislators than is commonly believed, a higher proportion, in our opinion, than is to be found in state legislatures. This willingness to work for legislation not of particular interest to a Congressman's constituents or campaign contributors sometimes may be due to ambitions of the member for advancement to the Senate or high state office, which requires satisfying a broader constituency. But in most cases it is because the Congressman is conscientious and takes his duties seriously.

BILLS RELATING TO DOMESTIC ANIMALS

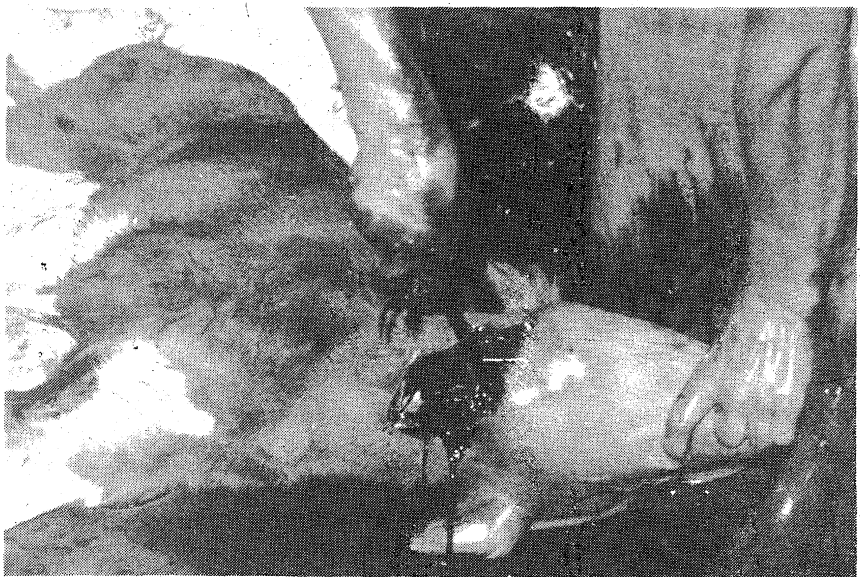
Bills relating to domestic animals are referred to the House Committee on Agriculture, and its Subcommittee on Livestock and Grains. That is where so much of the proposed humane legislation winds up, because it deals with domestic animals.

Humanitarians are fortunate that the chairman of the Agriculture Committee, Mr. Thomas S. Foley, of Washington, and of the Subcommittee on Livestock and Grains, Mr. W. R. Poage, of Texas, have shown themselves to be conscientious legislators quite sympathetic to humane legislation. Mr. Foley's wife, who is also his legislative assistant, is actively interested in animal welfare. Mr. Foley personally acted as floor manager for the bill carrying the 1976 amendments of the Animal Welfare Act and succeeded against considerable opposition in getting it passed. This bill was first considered by Mr. Poage's Subcommittee, and he also worked hard and patiently to meet conflicting viewpoints on these proposals.

Mr. Poage comes from a section of Texas given to sheep ranching, in which he also is personally engaged, we understand. Both he and his constituents have been considerably provoked over the efforts of humanitarians and environmentalists to ban the poisoning of predators, which they consider to be responsible for killing substantial numbers of sheep and lambs. One time when Dr. Thomsen called on Mr. Poage when the latter was very busy, and was about to leave for an important conference, five minutes were allotted for the interview. Mr. Poage soon got on one of his favorite subjects, predators, and did not leave for over an hour, after an earnest attempt to convince Dr. Thomsen that humane societies were wrong about coyotes!

The fact that Mr. Poage can turn right around and work hard for legislation wanted by humanitarians speaks well, indeed, for his objectivity and conscientiousness.

But the Committee on Agriculture is a

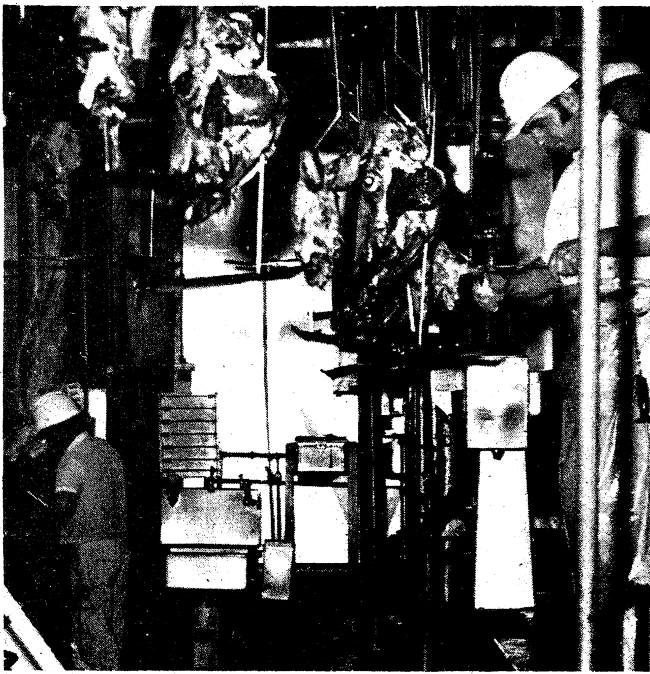


This is the way sheep, goats and calves are killed in Mexico and some other countries. The animal is held against the legs of the slaughterer, who grasps the muzzle of the animal with his left hand and cuts the throat with the knife in his right hand. (From Peggy Monning Porteau, Asociacion De Lucha Para Evitar La Crueldad Con Los Animales, A. C., Mexico.) We are using these color photographs despite the fact that they will not show up as well as in black and white, because so far we have not been able to obtain similar ones from New Zealand or Australia, where similar methods are said to be used. The United States imports negligible quantities of meat

HUMANE SLAUGHTER — FROM PAGE 7 —

very important and active legislative body. Its primary concern is with the problems of agricultural producers and marketing establishments responsible for feeding this country and many other parts of the world. It can devote only a limited amount of time to humane legislation.

In recognition of this situation, the Committee and Subcommittee chairmen and members appear to have adopted an informal policy of considering seriously only one piece of important humane legislation in each session. In the preceding session this single important bill consisted of the amendments to the Animal Welfare Act.



Meat inspectors of the USDA work daily in federally-inspected plants, checking for disease or other conditions which would make the meat unfit for human use. These same inspectors would be used to enforce the humane slaughter requirements under the Brown bill. (Photograph from *The National Provisioner*.)

Now we are in a new session of Congress, and the Committee and Subcommittee chairmen and members will have to choose what principal piece of humane legislation will receive concentrated attention in 1977. We devoutly hope it will be the Brown bill. And we have received various indications that it likely will be, unless some other proposal generating more interest among people writing to the Committee and Subcommittee and other members of Congress should displace it.

That is where you, the readers of this *Report to Humanitarians*, come in.

Obviously, we would not have reached this favorable stage in Congressional consideration of the bill had it not been for the large number of letters generated by our past reports and the *Humane Legislation Digest* published by our sister society, the National Association for Humane Legislation, a year ago.

We have received quite a few letters from active members who have written, and who urged others to do so, and who were greatly disappointed and depressed when no action by Congress followed. We must not

be too impatient and expect too much. Getting legislation is a step-by-step process, which must be carried out consistently for each phase. We are now at the most critical phase.

A lot will depend on you when the fate of this bill is decided this year. *Now is the time for all good humanitarians and consumers to come to the aid of these poor animals who suffer so that you may have meat on your tables.* If you do your part, the Congress will do its part.

WHAT OUR MEMBERS SHOULD DO

(1) Write a letter to the Congressman from your own district, if you have not already done so in response to the suggestion in our last *Report*. Ask him to work and vote for the Brown bill for humane slaughter, H.R. 1464. Address: Honorable _____, United States House of Representatives, House Office Building, Washington, DC 20515.

(2) Write to Mr. W. R. Poage, Chairman, Subcommittee on Livestock and Grains, House Office Building, Washington, DC 20515. Ask him to hold hearings on the Brown bill for humane slaughter, H.R. 1464, and to report it out favorably as soon as possible.

(3) Write to Mr. Thomas S. Foley, Chairman, House Agriculture Committee, House Office Building, Washington, DC 20515. Ask him to please do as effective a job in pushing through the Brown bill for humane slaughter, H.R. 1464, as he did last year for the Animal Welfare Act amendments.

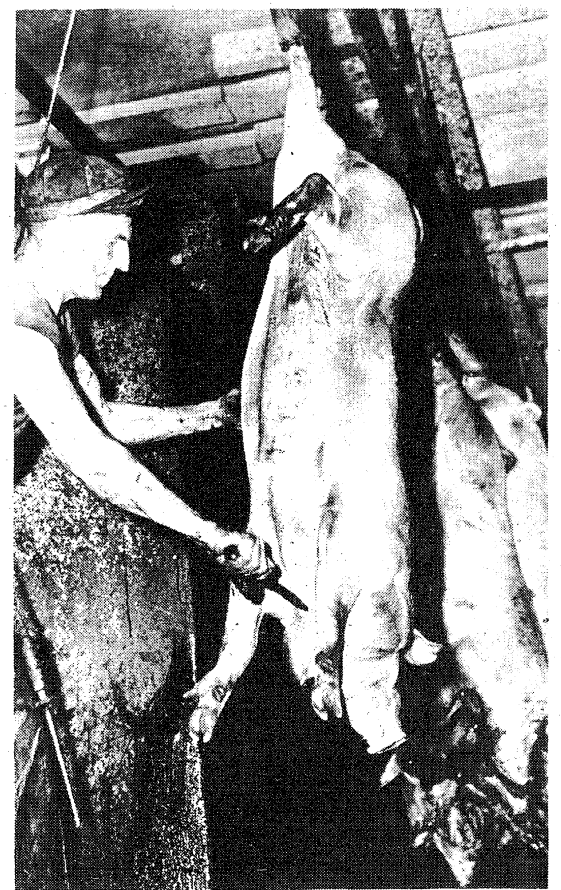
(4) Write to each member of the Subcommittee on Livestock and Grains, asking for support of the Brown bill for humane slaughter, H.R. 1464. You can address each one at: House Office Building, Washington, DC 20515. Members of the Subcommittee, in addition to the Chairman, Mr. Poage, are:

Eligio de la Garza, of Texas
Ed Jones, of Tennessee
James H. Weaver, of Oregon
Thomas R. Harkin, of Iowa
Jack E. Hightower, of Texas
Berkley W. Bedell, of Iowa
Glenn English, of Oklahoma
Floyd J. Fithian, of Indiana
Ike Skelton, of Missouri
Dan Glickman, of Kansas
Daniel K. Akaka, of Hawaii
Keith G. Sebelius, of Kansas
Charles Thone, of Nebraska
James P. (Jim) Johnson, of Colorado
Thomas M. Hagedorn, of Minnesota
E. Thomas Coleman, of Missouri

(5) Write to each of the two US Senators from your state, asking them to do everything possible to see that the Brown bill for humane slaughter, H.R. 1464, is passed in the Senate.

(6) Write letters to the editors of your locally-circulated newspapers, explaining briefly the need for this legislation, and urging readers to write to their Congressman and two Senators urging passage of the Brown bill for humane slaughter, H.R. 1464.

(7) Persuade your local humane society to pass a resolution endorsing the Brown



This live and fully conscious hog hangs by one leg on a slaughterhouse assembly line. The slaughterman is starting to cut its throat. The hogs to the right already have been "stuck" and are bleeding to death.

bill for humane slaughter, H.R. 1464, and to send copies of it to the Congressman from your district; to Mr. Poage, Chairman of the Subcommittee on Livestock and Grains; to Congressman George E. Brown, Jr.; to the two US Senators from your state; and to Humane Information Services.

(8) If you are a member of any national humane organization in addition to Humane Information Services, write them and ask them to actively support the Brown bill H.R. 1464.

(9) Try to persuade your labor unions, church auxiliaries and civic organizations to write letters in support of the Brown bill H.R. 1464.

(10) Send an extra contribution to Humane Information Services to help in obtaining humane slaughter of food animals.

Make the letters to Congress brief, courteous and specific. The Congressman you are addressing has heard all the arguments in favor of the bill, about how we should help the poor, dear animals to avoid suffering, etc. The registered lobbyist of our sister society, the National Association for Humane Legislation, has visited the Congressmen's offices and left literature. Do not send a copy of this *Report* or any other. Just ask him politely to do what you want--support the Brown bill for humane slaughter, H.R. 1464. Don't confuse the issues by referring also to other legislation. Stick to the Brown bill for humane slaughter, H.R. 1464.

Friends and fellow animal lovers, you will feel a lot better, when next you cook or eat a piece of meat, for having made this effort in behalf of humane slaughter.

MEMORIAL CONTRIBUTIONS
have been received from...

John W. Cutler, Stan Cutler, Mary W. Baker, Hilary Baker and Scott Baker, Stamford, Connecticut, "in loving memory of our dog Chouette, who died on September 16. We have rarely, if ever, met a human being who possessed such a combination of loyalty, courage and sensitivity to the members of her family."

Mr. and Mrs. Russell J. Denby, Jr., Easton, Connecticut, "in memory of Silhouette. Words cannot express our loss of this loved one. He was a beautiful silver poodle that God let us love for 14 years, and we thank Him."

Ms. Linda Jane Grey, San Jose, California, "in memory of Meicin, who was struck by a car on September 20, 1976. No other cat could ever take his place."

Mrs. Leonard A. Harvey, Seminole, Florida, "in honor of my beautiful big kitty cat Tiger."

Mrs. Edward F. Kopecky, Cedar Rapids, Iowa, "in memory of my German shepherd Leica and in appreciation of all that your organization represents."

Mr. and Mrs. Frederick O. Mathesie, Glendale, New York, "in memory of our lovely crossbred terrier, Snooky, who lived eleven years."

Mr. and Mrs. Hugh McGrail, Dorchester, Massachusetts, in memo-

law to abolish the leghold trap in Massachusetts. He passed away April 7, 1974, before the law was passed.

Mr. and Mrs. Harold J. Nieder, Livingston, New Jersey, "in loving memory of our daughter, Lynne Nieder Jenks Olsen, who passed away December 4, 1975, at the age of 37, and her daughter, Laurel Alison Jenks, who passed away April 5, 1968, at the age of seven."

Jim, Evelyn and Craig Orfield, Bristol, Virginia, "in memory of a true and loving friend, Mitzi, our 16-year-old terrier, who had to be put to sleep December 11, 1976."

Mr. and Mrs. Roger W. Peavey, Fort Lauderdale, Florida, "in memory of our beloved Clancy Girl."

Mrs. Louise Lynn Shanafelt, Richmond, Virginia, "in memory of our beloved pet Champ, aged 14 years. We miss him so very much."

Miss Helen A. Stiebeling, Hillsboro, New Hampshire, "in memory of Honey, Mitsi and Patsy."

Mr. and Mrs. William H. Tuntke, Los Angeles, California, "in memory of Leo, Prince and Nikki. We miss them so much!" (See the Tuntkes' letter to the editor in this issue.)

Anonymous from Indianapolis, Indiana, "in remembrance of an individual personality like no other. His style came from beagle hound and fox terrier mix, only about ten inches high, every inch aggressively proclaiming 'I'm Poofy. I can do it, but I'll do it